

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 00920 122036Z

70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 (ISO) W

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R 122018Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9064

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 0920

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, TD

SUBJECT: REPUBLIC AND NATIONAL ELECTIONS COMING SOON

REF: PORT OF SPAIN 0775

1. ON THE BASIS OF A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH GOVERNOR GENERAL SIR ELLIS CLARKE AND OTHER FRAGMENTS OF INFORMATION, IT NOW APPEARS THAT THE CURRENT TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PARLIAMENT WILL BE PROROGUED AND THE REPUBLIC PROCLAIMED IN MID-MAY, WITH NEW NATIONAL ELECTIONS TO TAKE PLACE IN JUNE.

2. FOLLOWING FINAL APPROVAL OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION UNDER WHICH TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO WILL BECOME A REPUBLIC (REFTEL), GOVERNOR GENERAL SIR ELLIS CLARKE TRAVELED TO BRITAIN AND PAID HIS FAREWELL CALL ON HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II APRIL 1. PARLIAMENT AND GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN BUSY WITH IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION AND CHANGES (MOSTLY FORM, INSIGNIA, ETC.) WHICH WILL BE REQUIRED BY THE ABANDONMENT OF MONARCHY. SIR ELLIS INDICATED PRIVATELY THIS PAST WEEKEND THAT HE WOULD BE PROROGUING PARLIAMENT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT O 00920 122036Z

AND SIMULTANEOUSLY PROCLAIMING THE REPUBLIC IN MID-MAY.

3. ELECTIONS MUST BE HELD NO LESS THAN THREE WEEKS AND NO LONGER THAN THREE MONTHS AFTER PARLIAMENT IS PROROGUED. THE GOVERNOR GENERAL PRIVATELY CONFIRMED OTHER SOURCES WHICH INDICATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL SET THE DATE EARLY RATHER THAN LATE, AND THEREFORE WE ANTICIPATE THE ELECTION DATE WILL BE SOME TIME FROM THE MIDDLE TO END OF JUNE. THE FORMAL ELECTION PERIOD WILL COMMENCE WITH THE PROROGUING OF PARLIAMENT.

4. UPON PROCLAMATION OF THE REPUBLIC, SIR ELLIS CLARKE WILL BECOME INTERIM PRESIDENT UNTIL THE FIRST PERMANENT PRESIDENT IS ELECTED BY THE NEW PARLIAMENT SELECTED IN THE FORTHCOMING NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: BELIEVE DEPARTMENT SHOULD PROPOSE SUITABLE CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT TO T&T PRESIDENT SIR ELLIS CLARKE AND TO PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS FOR DELIVERY PROMPTLY AFTER REPUBLIC IS PROCLAIMED.
FAY

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

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